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LINDSLEY FAMILY PAPERS
ca. 1600-ca. 1940

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INTRODUCTION

The Lindsley Family Papers are composed of the papers of a family well known in the educational, political, social, civic and public health life of Nashville, Tennessee, from about 1820 to about 1930. Two diaries have been placed on deposit and the remaining material brought for copying by the donor, Miss Margaret Lindsley Warden, Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 linear feet. Literary rights to the unpublished writings in the Lindsley Family Papers are the property of Miss Margaret Lindsley Warden, owner of these papers.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Lindsley Family Papers, containing 4 volumes and 95 items, span the period ca.1600-ca.1940. The collection is composed of the papers of a well known Nashville family. The first of the name to come to Tennessee was Philip Lindsley (1786-1855) who declined an offer to become President of Princeton College, New Jersey, to take the position of Chancellor of the University of Nashville. His son, John Berrien Lindsley (1822-1897), succeeded him in this position in 1855.

These family papers consist of genealogical data on the Lindsley and allied families of Berrien, Lawrence, Caldwell, Calhoun, McGavock, Grundy, Rodgers, Bass and Warner with biographical sketches, obituaries, clippings, documents and writings of members of these families; and two volumes of diaries of John Berrien Lindsley, educator, geologist, physician, Presbyterian minister, and public health officer of Nashville, Tennessee.

In his volume that he has marked "4," John Berrien Lindsley has a few entries concerning his early life beginning with his birth in Princeton, New Jersey, October 24, 1822. From 1849 to 1856, he enters his daily activities, as he does also in the next volume from October 6, 1856, to January 1, 1866. These two diaries include the 1846-1848, when Lindsley was exclusively a minister; 1850-1866, when he was with the Medical College of the University of Nashville (he was Chancellor of the Medical College, 1856-1870); 1855-1860, when he was on the Nashville Board of Education; and 1862, when he was from February 17 to March 4, Post Surgeon, C. S. A., for Nashville. Numbers of persons prominent in medical, church, educational, and political circles are mentioned. He records marriages, births, and deaths; meetings of medical, educational, and social associations which he attended; and current events. Many events and vital statistics of Nashville are listed, but no details are given until 1861 through 1864. During that time there is comment on Lindsley's work in the university of Nashville hospitals, his efforts to secure the buildings and grounds of the University, the occupation of Nashville by Federal troops, the arrival of Federal gunboats, the Battle of Nashville, the confusion and terror of the people, and the illegal procurement of government stores by civilians. In addition to the members of the Lindsley and McGavock families, names most frequently mentioned include Dr. George F. Blackie, Dr. William K. Bowling, Samuel Crockett, Margaret Crawford, Nathaniel D. Cross, the Reverend John T. Edgar, Dr. Paul F. Eve, Dr. J. W. Hoyte, Gen. Bushrod R. Johnson, Joshua F. Pearl, Gerard Troost, William Walker, Dr. Charles K. Winston, and Dr. David W. Yandell.

Included with these papers are biographical sketches for the following members of the family: Felix Grundy (1777-1840); his wife, Ann (Rodgers) Grundy (1779-1847); their grandson, John Meredith Bass (1845-1908); Philip Lindsley (1786-1855); and his son, John Berrien Lindsley (1822-1897); and Louise Grundy Lindsley (1858-1944). Obituaries for many members of the family are also included.

Sketches include two of the history of the University of Nashville, and one of the Jacob McGavock home in Nashville. Son-in-law of Felix Grundy, he was born at Max Meadows, Virginia, in 1790, and died in Nashville in 1878. He was a friend of Andrew Jackson and served in the War of 1812 with him. His daughter, Sarah, married John Berrien Lindsley. This description of the home is written by their daughter, Louise Grundy Lindsley.

There are four articles by John Berrien Lindsley with these papers. One, "Our ruin: its cause and cure", was published November 14, 1868, and is a protest against the bad municipal government existing at that time. It led to the ousting of the carpetbag government, the Alden Ring, and to the appointment of a receiver for the city government. The other three are medical articles; "Practitioners of medicine as students of science". Reprinted from the *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of Tennessee*, April, 1887; "The medical profession and the public health movement", reprint from the *Mississippi Valley Medical Monthly*, 1887; and "Address on State medicine - the people and the public health movement", reprint from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, July 2, 1892.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Berrien Lindsley

- 1822 October 24, born at Princeton, New Jersey, son of Philip and Margaret Berrien Lindsley
- 1823 May 18, baptized
- 1836 Entered freshman class at the University of Nashville
- 1838 Became private pupil of Dr. Gerard Troost
- 1839 Graduated with A. B. degree from University of Nashville
- 1840 Joined the First Presbyterian Church, Nashville; Dr. Edgar, pastor
- 1841 June 4, entered W. G. Dickinson's office as medical student after having received the A. M. degree from the University of Nashville.
October 26, left Nashville to attend medical lectures at Louisville
- 1842 October 18, left for Philadelphia to attend medical school
- 1843 Received M. D. degree, medical school, University of Pennsylvania.
Elected member of the Tennessee Medical Society
- 1845 June 8, at the bedside of Andrew Jackson who died at the Hermitage.
December 5, his mother, Margaret Berrien Lindsley, died
- 1846 June 6, began pastorate at Smyrna Church after serving at Hermitage Church.
October 13, ordained as an evangelist in First Presbyterian Church, Nashville
- 1847 April 18, began preaching as domestic missionary
- 1848 June 7, began geological tour with Dr. Troost and others through the northern and middle states. Became charter member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 1849 Rendered service during cholera epidemic. Began keeping a diary.
Charter member of the Tennessee Historical Society

- 1850 Organized Medical School at the University of Nashville.
September 14, Dr. Troost, his friend and teacher, died.
October 11, appointed professor of chemistry and pharmacy in the
Medical School of the University of Nashville.
October 14, elected dean of the faculty at the University of Nashville
- 1851 Became trustee for the common schools of South Nashville. Elected
member of the American Medical Association
- 1852 Spent most of the year in European countries studying medical
developments. Called on George Peabody while in London
- 1854 Made plans for consolidation of the Western Military Institute with the
University of Nashville
- 1855 Elected Chancellor of the University of Nashville.
May 25, his father, Philip Lindsley, died
- 1856 Published study on Dr. Porter. Became a member of the Board of
Education. D. D. conferred upon him by the college of New Jersey
(Princeton)
- 1857 February 9, married Sarah McGavock, daughter of Jacob McGavock and
granddaughter of Felix Grundy. Wedding trip through the East
- 1858 Made another trip through the East visiting Bellevue Hospital, attended
meeting of American Scientific Association in Baltimore and the Tract
Society meeting in Philadelphia
- 1859 Made geological tour through Illinois. Made trip to Ireland, England,
France, Switzerland, and returned by way of Canada
- 1860 Accompanied Tennessee and Kentucky legislatures to Columbus, Ohio, in
a great Union demonstration. Made another trip East where he arranged
for publication of manuscript on the life and works of his father
- 1861 Went to Richmond to see if volunteer surgeons were wanted
- 1862 February 17, appointed post surgeon of Nashville hospitals. Held office
until March 4
- 1863-1864 Protected University property and arranged plan for a free medical school,
fashioned after the University of Michigan

- 1865 Elected member of the Nashville Board of Education
- 1866 Entered upon duties of superintendent of Nashville Public Schools
- 1867 Organized Montgomery Bell Academy and petitioned Peabody Education Funds to appropriate money for a normal school
- 1870 Resigned as Chancellor of the University of Nashville. Helped organize the Tennessee College of Pharmacy
- 1873 Retired from medical school as professor emeritus
- 1875 President of the Tennessee State Teacher's Association
- 1876 Elected health officer of the City of Nashville. Published *History of the Law School of Cumberland University at Lebanon, 1876*
- 1877 Elected executive secretary of the Tennessee State Board of Health
- 1878 In charge of health work of Tennessee during the yellow fever plague
- 1880 Elected professor of sanitary science and state preventive medicine in the medical department of the University of Tennessee
- 1886 Published *Confederate Military Annals*
- 1887-1889 Published other works on medicine and public health
- 1897 December 7, died in Nashville

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Clippings
2. Correspondence – Grundy, Felix, 1812, and James Hervey Otey, 1857
3. Diaries – Lindsley, John Berrien, 1849-1866
4. Diaries – Lindsley, John Berrien, typed copy, 1856-1866
5. Documents
6. Genealogical data
7. Miscellaneous
8. Obituaries
9. Polk Place – notes
10. Sketches – Biographical – Bass, John Meredith, 1845-1908
11. Sketches – Biographical – Grundy, Ann (Rodgers), 1779-1847
12. Sketches – Biographical – Grundy, Felix, 1777-1840
13. Sketches – Biographical – Lindsley, John Berrien, 1822-1897
14. Sketches – Biographical – Lindsley, Louise Grundy, 1858-1944
15. Sketches – Biographical – Lindsley, Philip, 1786-1855
16. Sketches – General – *The Famous Tenth Tennessee*
17. Sketches – Places – Jacob McGavock home in Nashville
18. Sketches – Places – University of Nashville
19. Writings of John Berrien Lindsley

Box 2 (Additions – Photocopies)

1. Pamphlet – *The Great Panic*
2. List of books read by John Berrien Lindsley, 1842-1863
3. Medical lecture notes, 1842-1843
4. Genealogical data – Lawrence, Lindsley, Conduct, and related families